

Appl. No. 09/471093

Amendments to the Specification:

✓ Please amend the paragraph starting on p.11, line 23:

For example, three multiplexed STS-1 signals can be multiplexed to form an STS-3 signal that operates at three times the base rate of 51.84 Mbps or at 155.520 Mbps. Similarly, 48 multiplexed STS-1 signals can form an STS-12 48 signal which operates at 48 times the base rate of 51.84 Mbps or at 2.488 gigabits per second (Gbps). In more sophisticated configurations, OC links are designed to carry up to 192 multiplexed STS-1 signals and provide close to 10 Gbps of transport capacity. OC links which can carry 192 multiplexed STS-1 signals are typically referred to as OC-192 links.

✓ Please amend the paragraph starting on p.13, line 30:

The section overhead 42 is located in rows 1 to 3 of the transport overhead 38. The overhead bytes contained in the section overhead 42 are respectively labelled A1, A2, J0/Z0, B1, E1, F1, D1, D2 and D3. With the exception of the F1 byte, the section overhead bytes are used for a variety of section control functions including signal performance monitoring, administration, maintenance and provisioning between section-terminating equipment. The F1 byte does not have any specific control function assigned and is usually set aside for user purposes. This is also true of every other F1 byte present in each STS-1 frame 32, 34, 36 of the STS-N frame 30.